

To: Cozad, David[Cozad.David@epa.gov]
From: Stoy, Alyse
Sent: Sat 10/17/2015 1:00:45 AM
Subject: Fwd: updated draft OPED

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hague, Mark" <Hague.Mark@epa.gov>
Date: October 16, 2015 at 7:53:35 PM CDT
To: "Carey, Curtis" <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>
Cc: "Brincks, Mike" <brincks.mike@epa.gov>, "Peterson, Mary" <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>, "Juett, Lynn" <Juett.Lynn@epa.gov>, "Stoy, Alyse" <Stoy.Alyse@epa.gov>, "Washburn, Ben" <washburn.ben@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: updated draft OPED

This provides a good story. I have a few minor edits which I'll get to group before Monday.

Thanks all.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 16, 2015, at 7:13 PM, Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks, we have a solid message here. Look forward to having a final version published.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 16, 2015, at 6:39 PM, Brincks, Mike <brincks.mike@epa.gov> wrote:

It's very good. Thx all.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 16, 2015, at 6:33 PM, Carey, Curtis <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov> wrote:

Mark

Here's the updated draft OPED incorporating the points from our conversation. Lynn and Alyse reviewed an early draft. Mary has not reviewed. We'll need a final review Monday after making sure I'm capturing your thoughts.

10/16/15 DRAFT OPED for St. Louis Post Dispatch

HHS Agency's Health report confirms no offsite public health concerns near landfill

I want to assure the people of St. Louis that your safety from the radiological material buried at the West Lake Landfill is our number one priority. We are scientists and engineers that care deeply about your wellbeing and making sure you have the most accurate information about conditions at the landfill. That is why we have been deeply concerned with the many misstatements and inaccurate information that has caused so much concern in recent days.

In addition to the numerous studies we've conducted we have also enlisted the help of other top experts from the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Health and Human Services. We asked the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a part of the HHS, to conduct an independent Health Consultation of all known potential health risks posed by the radiological material buried at the site. The report they just released confirms that groundwater, air, and soil data do not indicate a health risk to communities surrounding the West Lake Landfill.

This independent report by some of the nation's premier scientific health experts should reassure the public.

Regarding recently released information by the Missouri Attorney General as part of his lawsuit against Republic Services, EPA strongly disagrees that a subsurface smoldering event (SSE) at the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill could reach the radiologically impacted materials (RIM) buried in the West Lake Landfill within 3-6 months. There is no scientific data to support that conclusion. We also disagree with the characterization that there would be a Fukushima-like event. The radiological waste at West Lake Landfill is not capable of producing any sustained chain reaction (fission or fusion) that is capable of producing a nuclear reaction or "meltdown" as seen at the Chernobyl and more recently Fukushima power plants.

As you may have read, St. Louis County developed a contingency plan last

year that EPA and other emergency response organizations supported. It is important to remember St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger's remarks that the existence of the plan does not indicate any immediate threat to the community by the landfill. The business of emergency planning is to be prepared for all types of emergencies and disasters, irrespective of the likelihood that such disasters may occur.

We would like for the public to be assured that EPA and MDNR continue to monitor the SSE, and EPA regularly reviews the SSE data to evaluate any movement. To date, review of the data have not indicated advancement of the SSE beyond the neck area of the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill.

We remain focused on our work to ensure that human health and the environment remain protected from the contaminants now and into the future. We will continue to keep the public informed, using sound science as the basis for our conclusions. Our duty to the people of St. Louis County is to provide a final remedy at the West Lake Landfill site. Our focus right now is to complete the investigation work at the site that is needed to support a final remedy decision that can be implemented.

For information on the landfill, public meeting notices, correspondence and reports, please visit:

http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/

Curtis D. Carey, Ph.D.

Region 7 Public Affairs Director

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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